



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



What is the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance?

- An independent, bipartisan source of advice and counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Education on higher education and student financial aid policy.
- Created by Congress with the enactment of the Higher Education Amendments of 1986.

What is the Purpose of the Advisory Committee?

- Make recommendations to maintain and increase access and persistence to higher education for low- and moderate-income students.
- Provide technical expertise and understanding of federal, state, and institutional student financial aid programs and systems of need analysis and application forms.
- Make recommendations to improve federal financial aid programs by:
 - ◆ Promoting program integrity
 - ◆ Eliminating or avoiding program complexity
 - ◆ Integrating delivery across the Title IV programs
 - ◆ Minimizing burden on students and institutions

Who are the Members of the Advisory Committee?

- Eleven committee members are appointed by members of Congress or the Secretary of Education:
 - ◆ Three are appointed by leaders of the House of Representatives
 - ◆ Three by leaders of the Senate
 - ◆ Five by the Secretary of Education
- Committee members are diverse:
 - ◆ Geographically—more than a dozen states have been represented.
 - ◆ Professionally—membership has included financial aid officers, students, college presidents and administrators, directors of guaranty agencies, and leaders of national educational associations.
- Committee members serve staggered three-year terms and can be re-appointed.
- Eight, full-time staff members are located in Washington, D.C. to support Committee members.

How Does the Advisory Committee Assist Congress and the Secretary of Education?

- Makes recommendations to Congress and the Secretary regarding higher education and student aid policies and programs, particularly as they relate to access for low- and moderate-income students.
- Provides Congress and the Secretary with technical assistance regarding federal, state, and institutional student financial aid programs and systems of need analysis and application forms.
- Conducts studies and submit reports that have been requested by Congress.
- Publishes reports on the condition of access and persistence for low- and moderate-income students.
- Convenes experts on higher education and financial aid policy for meetings, hearings, and symposia.
- Makes recommendations on best research practices for studies measuring access and persistence.
- Monitors the design and implementation of changes made to the Higher Education Act.